

## 2 Chronicles 20:21-22

***And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.***

All this week we have been looking at Praise, Worship and Singing unto the Lord. With all that in mind, most of you know that I am a musician and I write and record worship/praise songs to the Lord, and that I do it under the name "Praise Warrior". So some will think, "*Where in the bible does it mention a Praise Warrior, I can't find it?*" and you won't because it's not in there, just like the word "Rapture" or "Trinity" is not in the bible. You have heard of a Prayer Warrior (Which also is not in the bible), but you are wondering, what is a Praise Warrior? So I thought that I would share with you what a Praise Warrior is?

If you read today's devotional verse, this is where I get the name "Praise Warrior" from, and it may sound cool to be a Praise Warrior, but if you think about it, the Praise Warriors are the ones that are put on the front line in battle, which means they would be the first ones to get hit when the attacks happen.

It reminds me of the Veggie Tales series, and there is one where it was a portrayal of Joshua and the wall of Jericho. In the Veggie Tales versions, the veggies (representing the children of Israel) had slushy's thrown on them from the top of the wall as they walked around the city of Jericho. Well, the Praise Warriors would be the ones that were hit with the slushy's. Yet in the midst of the battle they would still worship and praise the Lord, and those following would see God defeat their enemies.

The second example of a Praise Warrior in the bible is one that we know so well, and that is King David who wrote a large portion of Psalms, many of them we sing today in church. These Psalms glorify the Lord and teach us as well.

One of the greatest things that King David is known for is his heart towards God.

† ***Acts 13:22b 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'***

Even though King David was not perfect (He committed adultery and murder), still he put God first in his life, with the way that he lived and the way that he treated others with kindness, respect and compassion. The Psalms that he wrote were in response to his close relationship with the Lord, and the things that the Lord did and allowed to happen in his life.

So today we can read and sing these Psalms, and as we do, they will draw us before the throne of God as we can relate to the same things King David wrote about and experienced. That's what a Praise Warrior does; he or she draws your attention to God, and brings you before God's throne to worship the Lord.

A Praise Warrior captures those words like King David did, and helps you express them in a way that you want to when you just can't seem to come up with the right words during those difficult times in your life, be it good or bad, happy or sad, or in times of brokenness, or times of rejoicing.

A Praise Warrior will help you to sing deep from your heart, so that it will become a time of healing, repenting, rejoicing, crying out, brokenness, dancing, edification, and drawing closer to the Lord in an intimate way that's special between you and the Lord.

Also think of when you go to church or a home group, or even in your personal time in the word with the Lord. Usually you prepare your heart in time of worship and singing to the Lord. Then afterwards there is a time of reflecting on what the Lord spoke to you, by responding in worship and song as well. We do it by pouring out our hearts to God in one of the most powerful ways that we can with our words, and that is in song.

A Praise Warrior's prayer is that you will praise the Lord with the words and music that the Holy Spirit has given him. Also when you stop listening to the music that you are still praising our Lord with the words hidden deep in your heart, and that you would fall more in Love with Jesus, our Lord and Savior!!!

Remember the beginning of the week we talked about "Worship" and how true worship is giving up everything and not keeping a few things back? Well, in order to be a worship leader or Praise Warrior, you must first be willing to give up yourself for the sake of others.

† **Philippians 2:3-4** *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

For a Praise Warrior, it's not just about, how can I enter the throne room of God to worship Him? But also, how can I lead others into the throne room of God so that they can worship Him as well. That's what those who lead worship in church are doing. Some will think that their time of preparation as practice, but it's actually a time of them preparing their hearts and themselves to enter the throne room of God, so that they can lead us there to.

† **Hebrews 4:16** *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

† **Revelation 7:15-17** *Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not*

*strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*

I pray you have enjoyed this week of learning about worship and praising the Lord and even learning about what a Praise warrior is.

May the Lord richly bless you all, and may we always Worship and Praise His Holy Name, regardless of our circumstances.

† **Numbers 6:24-26 (NLT)** *‘May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.’*